advanced technology, with particular reference to mustard, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.

(ii) Supporting oilseeds projects of the National Dairy Development Board.

(iii) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) aims at harnessing the best production, processing and management technologies, to accelerate self reliance in oilseeds production.

(iv) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(v) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(vi) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vii) Assistance for oil palm development.

(viii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds.

Spoilt Sugar Entered Mumbai Port in Cargo-Vessel

482. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about one thousand tonnes of spoilt sugar entered Mumbai port in a cargo-vessel 'MV-Nafalie' in May—June this year;

(b) whether it was found unfit not only for human consumption as such, but also for distilleries; and

(c) if so, how the same has been disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) A consignment of 1335 tonnes of sugar was brought to Mumbai Port on MV Nafalie on 13.4.1997. The consignment was unloaded from MV Nafalie in stream into barge 'Prosper' under customs permission and supervision on 15.5.1997. The barge has been at berth in Prince's Dock from 12.6.97. As per the certificate issued by Food and Drug Administration, Government of Maharashtra, the sugar is moist, sticky with fermented shell and hence unfit for human consumption. The sugar is still lying loaded on the barge awaiting disposal.

Contractor-Official Nexus Defrauds Government of Crores of Rupees

483. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in 'The Pioneering' dated 4th July, 1997 under the caption "Contractor-official nexus defrauds Government of crores-major racket in rice transportation";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether any departmental action has been taken against the FCI officials responsible for this racket;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to stop such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Food Corporation has filed FIR against M/s Gautam Associates, Mohali and M/s Yazen Ayier & Co., Pehowa who were appointed as Transport Contractors by the Food Corporation of India for transportation of foodgrains from Haryana to Imphal (Manipur) for not delivering 4363 MT and 1543 MT of rice worth Rs. 4.25 crores. The Central Government has also approved the proposal of the Food Corporation of India to refer the case to Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation and FCI has taken